

Your Town

search

GO

[< Back to front page](#)

Text size - +

ALLSTON BRIGHTON, FENWAY-KENMORE

Vigil at BU to remember slain graduate student from India

Posted by Matt Rocheleau April 27, 2012 02:28 PM

[Print](#) | [Comments \(\)](#)

By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

A candlelight vigil is planned for this weekend at Boston University in memory of a graduate student who was shot to death on an Allston street blocks from where he was living.

ADVERTISEMENT

ALLSTON-BRIGHTON REAL ESTATE

86
Homes for sale

160
Rentals available

6
Open houses this week

0
New listings this week

ADVERTISEMENT

Kanagala Seshadri "Sesh" Rao



Organizers said the event will mourn and remember the 24-year-old student from India, Kanagala Seshadri Rao. The vigil will also serve as a show of support for his friends and family and will allow students and the local community to voice neighborhood safety concerns.

"This is the time to come together," said Amrit Soni, president of the Indian Association of Greater Boston.

That group and the Orissa Society of New England are leading the organization of the vigil.

Soni and Nihar Nanda, who presides over the local Orissa Society chapter, said that friends of Rao are expected to speak at the event. Members of the student body, including the Boston University India Club, along with staff at BU are expected to participate, they said. Several dozen local organizations and



Waiting for Twitter to feed in the latest...

[Follow other Boston.com Tweets](#) | [What is Twitter?](#)

interfaith leaders have been invited to the vigil.

The vigil is scheduled to begin Sunday at 7:30 p.m. at Marsh Plaza, an outdoor common area at the heart of the campus that stretches along Commonwealth Avenue.

Boston University plans to hold a memorial service for Rao on May 4 at 10 a.m. in the School of Management Auditorium.

The school is collecting memories and tributes online, [here](#), which officials said will be shared with Rao's family.

Rao was found lying outside and suffering from gunshot wounds to his head and leg at about 2:40 a.m. on [April 19](#), according to the university. He was pronounced dead at the scene along the 100 block of Allston Street in a residential area about one mile from BU campus.

An autopsy has ruled Rao's death a homicide, Boston Police spokeswoman Elaine Driscoll said.

No arrests have been made and police have declined to say more about the incident, including a possible motive for the attack.

"All information is investigatory in nature at this point and to protect the integrity of the investigation we are not permitted to elaborate," Driscoll said in an e-mail, declining to answer several rounds of questions. "We will announce any developments that become available to the public."

Rao's roommates have declined to comment. The owner of the building Rao lived in has said the roommates told her that Rao left the apartment at about 2 a.m. Thursday, though it was unclear why.

He was called "Sesh" by many and grew up in Jeypore, a village in the state of Orissa, India.

He moved to Boston last fall to enroll in a selective, 17-month master's program in mathematical finance in university's management school. More than 1,000 people from all over the world apply for the program, less than 5 percent enroll, university officials have said.

BU faculty and administrators have described Rao as an intelligent, hard-working student and a kind-mannered, enthusiastic young man who quickly made friends.

Rao's body arrived earlier this week in India, where all of Rao's immediate family lives and planned to hold last rites services, according to Nanda, who said he has spoken to the family.

"They were very heartbroken," he said.

In an [e-mail to the Globe on Sunday](#), the student's father, Kanagala Sudhakar Rao, 56, said his son had not mentioned having problems with anyone before he was killed. The father said he had not been concerned about his son living in Boston.

He said his son was set to begin an internship at Fidelity in May as part of his master's studies at BU and the student planned to return to India next year earning his degree.

Rao's father wrote in an e-mail Sunday: "I am very shocked."

E-mail Matt Rocheleau at mjrochele@gmail.com.

--

For the latest Allston-Brighton updates:

Follow [@YourAllstonBri](#) on Twitter, [here](#).

And connect via Facebook by clicking the "Like" button on the top left hand corner of the Allston-Brighton homepage, [here](#).

◀ Previous
entry

Next entry ▶

COLLEGIATE SOCCER ACADEMY

Tips on Contacting College
Soccer Coaches & Introductory
Letter

IBS AMERICA, INC

Addressing Multiple Regulatory
Requirements with EH&S

AFFINNOVA

Product Development: Conjoint
Analysis & Choice Models Hold
the Keys

[MORE INSIGHTS ▶](#)